

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 14, 16-21 and 25-27 are pending in the present application. Claim 14 is amended by the present amendment. Support for amended Claim 14 can be found at least at Fig. 21 and p. 42, l. 8 – p. 44, l. 4 of the originally filed disclosure. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 14, 16-20 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chan et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,965,893, herein Chan) in view of Sakata (U.S. Pat. 5,528,361) and McIntyre et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,245,702, herein McIntyre); and Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chan in view of Sakata, McIntyre and Harris (U.S. Pat. 6,912,621).

The Office Action rejects Claims 14, 16-20 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chan in view of Sakata and McIntyre. In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 14 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 14 is amended to recite, in part, an image forming apparatus, comprising:

- a display device ...
- a plurality of application programs performing respective processing of the plurality of application programs related to the image formation;
- a storage device storing rewritable shared data which is used by the plurality of application programs in common ... wherein
- the plurality of application programs include a first application program that is currently subject to updating of the shared data by the shared-data control unit and configured to display the shared data on the display device, a second application program that is not currently subject to updating of the shared data by the shared-data control unit and configured to display the shared data on the display device, and a third application program that is configured to not display the shared data on the display device,
- when updating of the shared data of the first application program is performed by the shared data control unit, an updating-start notification is sent

to the second application program by the shared data control unit and no updating-start notification is sent to the third application program by the shared data control unit, and

one of a screen of the shared data of the first application program and a screen of the shared data of the second application program is selectively displayed on the display device.

As disclosed in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 21 and p. 42, l. 8 – p. 44, l. 4 of the originally filed disclosure, the plurality of application programs may include first, second and third application programs. The first application program (e.g., scanner application 24 in Fig. 21) is currently subjected to updating of the shared data by the shared-data control unit (e.g., UCS 37 in Fig. 21) and is configured to display the shared data on the display. The second application program (e.g. facsimile application 23 in Fig. 21) is not currently subject to updating of the shared data by the shared-data control unit and is also configured to display the shared data on the display. The third application program (e.g. network file application 25 in Fig. 21) does not display the shared data on the display. When the shared data is updated to the first application program by the shared-data control unit, an updating start notification is sent to the second application program by the shared-data control unit, but *no updating start notification is sent to the third application program* by the shared-data control unit. Moreover, as shown at Fig. 3, for example, one of a screen of the shared data of the first application program (e.g. scanner application 24) and a screen of the shared data of the second application program (e.g. facsimile application 23) is selectively displayed on the display.

According to the above-noted configuration, even when a screen of the user information (the shared data) of the second application program (e.g. facsimile application 23) is not currently displayed on the displaying device (e.g. operation panel 70) of the image forming apparatus, the second application program is able to receive an updating start notification from the shared-data control unit (e.g. USC 37), and the second application program is able to confirm a result of the updating of the user information (the shared data) of

the first application program (e.g., scanner application 24). Moreover, as discussed at p. 44, ll. 1-4 of the specification such a user information updating notice processing can save the resources of the multi-function system 1 by omitting the unneeded notice of the updating start and the unneeded notice of the updating end (e.g. network file application 25).

At pp. 6-8, the Office Action concedes that Chan and Sakata fail to disclose the previously recited claimed details regarding the plurality of applications including first and second application programs. In an attempt to remedy this deficiency, the Office Action relies on McIntyre, and asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references to arrive at Applicant's claims. In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that McIntyre fails to disclose the above noted features recited in amended independent Claim 14.

McIntyre describes a method for sharing off-screen memory. In rejecting Claim 14, the Office Action relies, in part, on col. 3, ll. 4-27 of McIntyre, which describes that a plurality of programs may simultaneously display data in a plurality of display windows. The Office Action also relies on col. 6, l. 67 – col. 7, l. 37 and col. 12, ll. 14-41 of McIntyre, which describes that a program seeking hardware access first writes to a page of memory (called a lock page) shared between the two programs, and the lock page is used to provide exclusive access to a program during its use of the shared memory area.

Thus, McIntyre merely describes a method in which an application program requesting access to the shared memory first locks the shared memory from access by other application programs. Therefore, McIntyre fails to teach or suggest that his device includes "... a first application program that is currently subject to updating of the shared data by the shared-data control unit and configured to display the shared data on the display device, *a second application program that is not currently subject to updating of the shared data* by the shared-data control unit *and configured to display the shared data on the display device*,

and a third application program that is configured to ***not display the shared data on the display device***”, as recited in independent Claim 14. Moreover, McIntyre fails to teach or suggest “when updating of the shared data of the first application program is performed by the shared data control unit, ***an updating-start notification is sent to the second application program by the shared data control unit and no updating-start notification is sent to the third application program by the shared data control unit***”, which is also a feature required by amended independent Claim 14.

Therefore, Chan, Sakata and McIntyre, even if combined, fail to teach or suggest each feature recited in amended independent Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 14 (and Claims 16-20 and 25-27, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

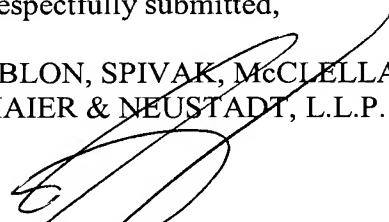
Regarding the rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chan in view of Sakata, McIntyre and Harris, Applicant notes that Claim 21 depends from Claim 14 and is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Harris fails to remedy the above noted deficiencies of Chan, Sakata and McIntyre.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 14, 16-21 and 25-27 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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